United Nations S/2012/964

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 December 2012

Original: English

Thirty-first progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 2062 (2012) of 26 July 2012, by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 31 July 2013 and requested me to provide a mid-term report no later than 31 December 2012 on the situation on the ground and the implementation of that resolution. The report covers major developments since my report of 29 June 2012 (S/2012/506).

II. Security situation

2. The security situation has remained fragile since my last report and, as conveyed in my letter to the President of the Security Council of 16 October (S/2012/772), deteriorated between August and October. Of particular concern were the attacks targeting national security forces in and around Abidjan and along the borders with Ghana and Liberia, aimed at destabilizing President Alassane Dramane Ouattara's Government. Those attacks marked an important change in the security dynamic. They were reportedly planned, financed and, to a certain extent, carried out by networks and individuals affiliated with members of the former Government of President Gbagbo inside and outside Côte d'Ivoire, some of whom reportedly were recruited, trained and armed in Liberia. Over 60 individuals were killed and many more wounded, including civilians, while thousands were temporarily displaced, and weapons and ammunition were taken by the assailants. The attacks further increased mistrust and deepened divisions in the country, in particular between the ruling party and the political opposition. There were also some incidents targeting supporters of former President Gbagbo.

3. In a serious incident, an armed robbery on 20 July in Duékoué during which five persons were killed prompted a large group of youths and dozos (traditional hunters) to attack the Nahibly camp for internally displaced persons, which was believed to host some of the robbers. The group, some of whom were armed with sticks and machetes, forcefully entered and set fire to the camp, which had hosted up to 5,000 persons, including many supporters of former President Gbagbo. Eleven people were killed and 56 injured, and the camp was destroyed. The national security forces responded to the incident, while UNOCI coordinated humanitarian

response efforts and launched initiatives to ease tensions. The Government and UNOCI are conducting separate investigations.

4. The majority of the attacks targeting national security forces were reported in and around Abidjan in south-eastern Côte d'Ivoire. Three incidents on 5 August marked the beginning of a series of violent attacks with assailants stealing weapons and equipment. In Abidjan, armed individuals opened fire on a Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI) checkpoint as well as a police post in the Yopougon neighbourhood, killing five and wounding several Ivorian security forces. During a third incident in Abengourou, a group of civilians attempted to enter an FRCI camp, disarming the sentry guard before they were repelled by FRCI members from within the camp.

5. The most significant attack took place on 6 August, when an armed group attacked the FRCI Akouédo camp in Abidjan, broke into the armory, and stole a significant number of weapons and ammunition, while others started firing at the barracks. The assailants reportedly enjoyed some support from within the camp. Five FRCI soldiers and one attacker were killed, while 18 persons were wounded. A large number of FRCI soldiers sought temporary refuge in the adjacent UNOCI camp. Six assailants were later captured by FRCI.

6. Other attacks against national security forces took place, including on 8 August, when one FRCI member and one assailant were seriously wounded during an attack on an FRCI checkpoint in Agboville. On 15 August, armed individuals simultaneously attacked an FRCI checkpoint, a gendarmerie post and the local prison in Dabou. Three civilians were killed and one FRCI member was wounded, while 120 detainees were freed, of which 31 were later recaptured. Further attacks were reported on 25 August near Irobo, during which one civilian, one FRCI soldier and two assailants were killed, and on 20 September in Abidjan, when one FRCI soldier was killed during an attack on three police and gendarmerie posts.

7. A further cross-border attack from Liberia was reported on 13 August when a group of armed individuals attacked a border post in Pehekan Houebli in western Côte d'Ivoire, during which one assailant was killed and three FRCI members wounded. The assailants seized weapons and temporarily took over the post, while some FRCI soldiers sought refuge on the Liberian side of the border. On 14 August, three FRCI soldiers were wounded during an attack on an FRCI checkpoint in Bakoubli near Toulépleu.

8. On 20 September, the first cross-border incident at the border with Ghana was reported in Noé. Armed assailants who had crossed the border by boat attacked an FRCI post. Eight of the assailants were killed and 14 suspects were later apprehended, while others reportedly fled to Ghana. In response to the attack, the Ivorian Government temporarily closed its air, land and maritime borders with Ghana. On 14 October, one assailant was killed and three FRCI members were wounded during separate attacks on police and FRCI posts in Bonoua.

9. While no major attacks were reported in November, on 16 December, during an attack on an FRCI post in Agboville, two FRCI members were killed and one civilian seriously wounded. In two separate incidents on 21 December, a civilian in custody was killed when a gendarmerie station was attacked in Abidjan, and two FRCI members were wounded during an attack on an FRCI post in Agbaou.

10. There was also an attack against a key infrastructure facility in Abidjan on 15 October. A group of some 50 armed individuals forced their way into the Azito thermal power plant, inflicting damage on one turbine and two water reservoirs. The national security forces subsequently arrested nine suspects, all serving members of the army, police and gendarmerie.

11. While the majority of attacks targeted Government sites, on 18 August, amid rising tensions in Abidjan, a group of unidentified individuals attacked the headquarters of the former ruling Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), injuring two FPI supporters and damaging property. On 19 August, an affiliated printing house in Abidjan, Cyclone, was ransacked and burned down by unknown individuals.

12. In response to the attacks, national security forces established a number of checkpoints and reinforced their presence in and around Abidjan and along the border with Ghana. During numerous search operations, over 500 individuals, including key opposition figures, were arrested, raising concerns about the heavy-handedness of FRCI, with many of the arrests not conforming to legal procedures.

13. A significant number of confrontations took place between communities, often revolving around land tenure issues opposing mostly so-called native and non-native communities, particularly in western and northern Côte d'Ivoire. Such incidents resulted in the death of at least 13 persons, while 55 were injured. Property was also damaged or destroyed. Many of the incidents involved FRCI soldiers or dozos, who in some instances were reported to have used deadly force to resolve such disputes.

14. The period under review also witnessed 11 prison breakouts in which a total of 137 detainees escaped from prisons across the country, including during the attack mentioned in paragraph 6 above. UNOCI also reported an increase in armed robberies throughout the country, particularly in Abidjan and along the main axis in the northern part of the country.

15. Explosive remnants of war as well as unsecured weapons and ammunition continued to pose a threat to civilians. UNOCI assisted the Government by conducting assessments of 60 ammunition storage facilities and armories, refurbishing 49. UNOCI also assisted in destroying 12,933 kg of unsafe and expired ammunition and destroyed 842 stockpiled landmines in compliance with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. The Mission also provided specialized training to FRCI on clearing explosive remnants of war and on stockpile management.

III. Political developments

16. In the light of the spate of attacks targeting national security forces, the Government focused its attention on security issues. On 8 August, President Ouattara created the National Security Council to serve as his principal forum for considering national security and policy matters. It comprises 18 members, including the Prime Minister, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Interior, Finance and Justice, the Chief of Defense Staff, the Gendarmerie Commander and the Director of the National Police. On 28 August, President Ouattara chaired the first meeting of the National Security Council, approving additional resources for the national security forces. Since its establishment, the National Security Council has met regularly to

address security matters as well as security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

17. The Government asked Liberia to extradite three individuals who had been arrested in Liberia in connection with the killing of the seven UNOCI peacekeepers in June 2012. In addition, initial steps were taken to address land tenure issues, including through the holding of an inter-ministerial seminar on 5 October. Meanwhile, three former Forces nouvelles commanders, Tuo Fozie, Kone Messamba and Ousmane Coulibaly (aka Ben Laden), were appointed as prefects in Bouna, Guiglo and San Pedro, respectively, on 26 September.

18. As mentioned above, the attacks, reportedly carried out to a certain extent by individuals and networks affiliated with members of the former Government of President Gbagbo, further increased mistrust and deepened divisions between the ruling coalition and the political opposition. This hampered progress in political dialogue and national reconciliation in spite of calls for political dialogue from opposition members, efforts by the Government to reach out to pro-Gbagbo groups and the enhanced involvement of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Chair of the Commission, former Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, held consultations with political parties, including the former ruling party, representatives of civil society, traditional and religious leaders, and non-governmental organizations.

19. Meanwhile, my Special Representative intensified his efforts to facilitate such dialogue between the Government and the political opposition, including through meetings with key stakeholders, political parties, youth groups and traditional and religious leaders. The former ruling FPI party chose not to participate in the second meeting of the cadre permanent de dialogue convened by the Prime Minister on 25 October, which was attended by other political opposition parties, to discuss issues of concern, including security and elections. On 13 December, President Macky Sall of Senegal received an FPI delegation in Dakar. They reportedly discussed ways to reduce tensions between the Government and the political opposition and their participation in the local elections. On 20 December, the Government announced that nine detainees affiliated with former President Gbagbo would be released on bail, including the Prime Minister of his post-elections government and a militia leader from western Côte d'Ivoire.

20. Inflammatory language was used by private media, resulting in an unprecedented temporary suspension by the National Press Council of all opposition newspapers from 12 to 17 September, which raised concern about the freedom of expression. My Special Representative used his good offices and advocated for the freedom of expression as well as for the observance of the law governing the media, which contributed to the lifting of the suspension. The attacks on the FPI headquarters and an affiliated printing house mentioned in paragraph 10 above and the looting of the residence of an FPI official, coupled with the arrests of many members of the political opposition, including the FPI interim Secretary-General and his deputy, raised security concerns among members of the political opposition. Since August, UNOCI has received at least 13 requests from political opposition representatives for protection, which are being discussed with the Government.

21. Tensions were also reported within the ruling Rassemblement des houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP) coalition between President Ouattara's Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) party and former President Henri

Konan Bédié's Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire. On 14 November, President Ouattara dissolved the Government, reportedly following a disagreement within RHDP over a bill to amend the law on marriage that was under discussion in the National Assembly. On 21 November, he appointed the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daniel Kablan Duncan of PDCI, as Prime Minister, followed by the appointment on 22 November of a new cabinet comprising 29 members, a reduction from the previous number of 40, with four new ministers.

22. The Government received the final report of the National Commission of Inquiry, which was established in July 2011 to conduct non-judicial investigations into violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed during the post-elections crisis. The report identifies armed groups loyal to both President Ouattara and former President Gbagbo as perpetrators of serious human rights violations, including summary executions. According to the Commission, a total of 3,248 persons were killed, including 1,452 by forces loyal to the former President, 727 by FRCI and 200 by dozos. The Commission also documented 1,009 cases of arbitrary execution, torture and forced disappearance. President Ouattara instructed the Prime Minister to take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. My Special Representative has stepped up his engagement with Ivorian authorities in this regard, raising human rights concerns and the need for due process and equitable justice.

23. On 11 October, the military tribunal in Abidjan convicted four former Forces de défense et de sécurité officers, most prominently former Republican Guard commander General Brunot Dogbo Blé and Simone Gbagbo's aide de camp, Captain Anselme Seka Yapo, for crimes committed during the post-elections crisis, including kidnapping and murder. The Government has sought the extradition of former President Gbagbo's spokesperson, Justin Katinan Koné, to face trial in Côte d'Ivoire for economic crimes committed during the crisis. He was arrested in Ghana on 24 August, released on bail on 25 September and re-arrested two days later before he was released on bail again on 24 October. His extradition hearing is pending.

24. With regard to international proceedings, the International Criminal Court ruled on 2 November that former President Gbagbo was fit to stand trial for the charges levelled against him. On 11 December, the Court announced that the hearing to confirm the charges against former President Gbagbo has been scheduled for February 2013. On 22 November, the Court unsealed an arrest warrant, issued on 29 February, against former First Lady Simone Gbagbo. According to the arrest warrant, she is responsible for the crimes against humanity of murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, other inhumane acts and persecution reportedly committed in Côte d'Ivoire during the post-elections crisis.

25. On 26 September, the Government announced that local elections would take place in February 2013, using the existing voters list. Residual legislative elections in six electoral districts were also scheduled for February 2013. Meanwhile, the electoral violence in the districts of Bonon and Facobly is being investigated by the Government.

Regional developments

26. As the Chair of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Ouattara played an active role in responding to the crises in Mali and Guinea-Bissau following the unconstitutional changes of government in those countries on 22 March and 12 April, respectively. He also continued to take steps to address subregional threats, including organized crime.

27. Cooperation between the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia further increased, including at the highest level, to address common border security challenges. Following a meeting with the Liberian National Security Adviser on 2 August, President Ouattara met President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia on 18 October in Abidjan, where they agreed on joint Ivorian and Liberian military operations on their common border. UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) continued to develop inter-mission cooperation, including through enhanced information-sharing and regular meetings. UNOCI and UNMIL are also developing a cross-border communication strategy aimed at encouraging Ivorians living in Liberia to return to Côte d'Ivoire.

28. High-level contacts also took place with Ghana, where many Ivorians reside, including representatives of the former regime as well as 9,300 Ivorian refugees. Following reports of the involvement of Ivorians in Ghana in attacks in Côte d'Ivoire, President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana publicly emphasized during his visit to Abidjan on 5 September that his country would not be used as a platform to destabilize Côte d'Ivoire. I used my good offices to facilitate contacts, while my Special Representative visited Ghana from 2 to 4 October where he met Ivorians and encouraged refugees to return to Côte d'Ivoire.

IV. Reform of security and rule of law institutions

29. Since my last report, the Government has made progress in advancing its security sector reform agenda. With support from UNOCI, the inter-ministerial working group finalized the national strategy for security sector reform, which was validated by the National Security Council in September. The strategy, which has not yet been disseminated, outlines the Government's vision for national security and identifies urgent and long-term priorities for the reform of the security sector.

30. The development of this strategy is an important step forward, as it articulates a vision for reform that moves beyond restoring security institutions to their pre-crisis capacities and towards a transformation of the security sector based on the country's needs. As a next step, the Government will have to translate the strategy into a concrete action plan to address short- and longer-term challenges and to cost envisaged activities.

31. UNOCI is supporting the Government by providing expert advice on security sector reform. The Mission also meets on a weekly basis with international partners to exchange information and enhance coordination and harmonization of efforts. In addition, the Mission also assisted with the preparation of a communication and sensitization plan to enhance public awareness with regard to the national security sector reform strategy. Finally, UNOCI is supporting the Government, with the participation of representatives of the National Assembly and civil society, to learn

lessons from the security sector reform experiences of neighbouring countries. On 1 August, France and Côte d'Ivoire signed four military cooperation agreements totalling 2.3 million euros with a focus on training and security sector reform.

Justice and corrections

32. All 37 courts across the country are fully functional and operating at full capacity, and a new courthouse was opened in Guiglo. The inspection of judicial and corrections services has resumed following the nomination in August of an Inspector General. On 17 October, the Government announced that disciplinary proceedings had been initiated against eight judges for abuse of power, extortion of funds and corruption. The implementation of the national justice sector reform strategy is under way, and UNOCI is providing technical capacity-building advice.

33. As of 18 December, 7,580 detainees were held in 32 prisons. The Government conducted an assessment of the prison security situation with UNOCI's support and is developing strategies to prevent jail breaks. The Mission is co-locating UNOCI corrections officers in 32 prisons and providing training support to the Government. In addition, the implementation of the national justice sector reform strategy is under way, with support from the European Union through a $18 million project, of which $4 million were disbursed on 19 July.

V. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

34. Progress was achieved with the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. On 2 August, the Government approved a national policy on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, which provides for the establishment of a single Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. President Ouattara appointed my former Deputy Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fidèle Sarassoro, to head the Authority. He assumed office on 1 October.

35. The national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration policy, which was developed with UNOCI support, foresees that all individuals over 18 years of age who had participated in the fighting in 2002 and/or the post-elections crisis would undergo disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, with an overall caseload estimated at 100,000 former combatants. The policy provides a broad outline of the process and identifies target groups and general eligibility criteria for the respective groups, which will be specified in an implementation strategy currently under development. The policy commits the Government to update the existing database to ensure that the list of former combatants is inclusive, credible and transparent.

36. The Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration developed a pilot programme for an initial caseload of 5,000 former combatants to be processed at the Anyama demobilization site in Abidjan. The operation targeted mainly elements associated with FRCI who had fought on the side of President Ouattara during the post-elections crisis. A total of 2,000 of those 5,000 former combatants will be integrated into the Government's penitentiary system, while others will be considered for placement in the customs, water and forestry services, as well as in private security companies. As of 18 December, 1,194 former combatants, including 63 women, have been disarmed and demobilized, while 861 weapons have

been collected. Five hundred former combatants have been deployed to work in prisons, while 443 are being trained. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations are planned to continue in other parts of the country. The two sites rehabilitated by UNOCI in Guiglo and Bouaké are ready for operations, and the remaining six, in San Pedro, Man, Séguéla, Korhogo, Bouna and Abengourou, are expected to be completed by mid-2013.

37. UNOCI is supporting the Authority for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in formulating an implementation strategy for the national policy referred to in paragraph 33, including by providing advice on planning medium- to long-term reinsertion and reintegration processes. UNOCI also continues to support the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which has conducted nine ad hoc operations across the country to encourage the voluntary handover of weapons. During those operations, a total of 112 weapons and 6,323 rounds of ammunition were collected.

38. UNOCI and the United Nations country team are working with the Government and representatives of the private sector to initiate activities with regard to youth employment. According to a recent World Bank report, an estimated 60 per cent of the population between the ages of 15 and 35 is unemployed or underemployed.

VI. Restoration of State authority

39. Local authorities, particularly prefects and local security committees, have played an important role in managing security-related issues affecting the population, often revolving around land tenure disputes. Early warning and sensitization committees have been created in most departments and sous-prefectures, although many still lack the means to become fully operational. UNOCI is supporting the local authorities, including by building the capacity of the corps préfectoral, in the management of public services and in conflict management and resolution, in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior. Through the Peacebuilding Fund, the United Nations continued to support the basic rehabilitation and equipping of prefectures, police and gendarmerie offices.

40. Fiscal administration has been largely restored throughout the country, and customs offices have opened in many locations in northern and western Côte d'Ivoire. However, there is still a limited presence of customs officers along the border with Liberia where FRCI continue to occupy some customs facilities. FRCI elements have also been observed accompanying mobile customs brigades. In spite of a lack of resources, which is hampering effectiveness, revenue is generally collected by the respective authorities, although incidents of racketeering continued.

VII. Human rights

41. The human rights situation in the country remains of serious concern. UNOCI documented 57 killings, 72 cases of torture or ill treatment, 22 cases of extortion and racketeering and 382 cases of illegal arrest. Violations were committed by armed individuals, including FRCI elements and dozos, often provoking confrontation with local populations. Many violations reportedly took place during

search operations by the national security forces. Most importantly, on 14 August, FRCI soldiers burned a dozen houses during a search operation at Pehekan village, claiming that the population had aided the perpetrators of an attack on a nearby FRCI border post. Several supporters of the former ruling party were intimidated, arrested or prosecuted for their alleged involvement in threatening State security and in the post-elections violence. Some of the arrested persons were subjected to torture and other forms of ill treatment.

42. On 11 October, six bodies were exhumed from a mass grave in Duékoué in the vicinity of the Nahibly camp, which was attacked on 20 July (see para. 3 above). The local authorities have requested a forensic examination and are investigating the alleged involvement of two FRCI members in the killings. On 12 October, during his third visit to Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations Independent Expert on the Human Rights Situation in Côte d'Ivoire urged the Government to fully investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice. During his visit to Côte d'Ivoire in November, my Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights urged the Government to bring perpetrators of serious human rights violations to justice and to take necessary measures to prevent and punish cases of arbitrary detention and torture.

43. The Council of Ministers adopted the law on the National Commission for Human Rights on 6 September. However, the text does not comply with the Paris principles related to the status and functioning of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Sexual violence

44. A worrying pattern of sexual violence was observed, in particular in the northern and western parts of the country, which prompted thousands of women in Duékoué to protest on 18 July against increasing sexual violence against women. Some 90 rapes, including over 20 gang rapes during armed robberies, were reported. Victims included minors as young as 3 years of age. While 19 alleged perpetrators of those crimes were arrested, rape continued to be punishable by a more lenient sentence of indecent assault, contributing to impunity. Moreover, the high cost of medical certificates (some $100) prevented many families from filing official complaints; some rape incidents were the subject of amicable settlements. UNOCI continued to prevent sexual violence through training activities, including with the national security forces. The Mission also distributed a number of cell phones through women's organizations to enable women in need to contact local authorities.

Child protection

45. Impunity for perpetrators of grave violations against children, as well as lack of accountability and transparency in the administration of justice for children, remain issues of great concern. During the reporting period, 94 cases of grave violations were documented, including 60 cases of rape and sexual violence, five abductions, four occupations of schools, 23 killings and maiming by explosion of grenades and unexploded ordnance, and two cases of children used by dozos at checkpoints. UNOCI provided awareness-raising and capacity-building support to 2,197 personnel from the Government, national security forces and civil society organizations.

Media

46. UNOCI continued its activities to build the capacity of the Ivorian media with the aim of strengthening their professional ethics and enhancing their responsibility in the coverage of political developments. ONUCI-FM continued to broadcast information about the situation in Côte d'Ivoire to the population across the country and to promote peace and reconciliation. A broadcasting agreement has been finalized with the national Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne for UNOCI programming.

VIII. Humanitarian and economic situations

47. Although the majority of persons displaced during the post-elections crisis have returned home, up to 80,000 remain displaced. The continued perception of insecurity and ineffective restoration of State authority, including limited access to basic social services, hampered the sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons visited Côte d'Ivoire in July and found that internally displaced persons continued to live in difficult situations and that although the camps had been dismantled, their needs and those of their host communities remained urgent.

48. Humanitarian actors continued to assist affected populations mostly in western and northern Côte d'Ivoire. Out of the $160 million required to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs for 2012 as per the Consolidated Appeal, 60 per cent were funded as of 18 December. A strategic framework is being prepared by the humanitarian community to address residual humanitarian needs in 2013, while progressively moving from an international humanitarian coordination structure towards government-led coordination.

49. Economic performance in Côte d'Ivoire has been strong. Economic activity rebounded more strongly than projected following the contraction resulting from the post-elections crisis and after reaching the completion point under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in late June.

50. A delegation of the International Monetary Fund visited Côte d'Ivoire from 19 September to 3 October, noting progress in the implementation of structural reforms, many of which seek to strengthen public financial management and improve the business climate. It found that the growth outlook through 2013 was favourable, while the Government's investment plan is expected to stimulate and enhance private investment and maintain economic expansion. The delegation also noted that further reforms will be needed for substantial job creation, increased funding possibilities for pro-poor expenditures, and higher living standards more generally for the people of Côte d'Ivoire. Key priorities include: electricity sector reforms; banking reform; strengthened debt management to protect public finances; flexibility in fuel prices; a strategy for managing the wage bill; and efforts to improve the business climate more broadly.

51. The President of the World Bank visited Côte d'Ivoire on 5 September, followed by the visit of a technical mission from 23 September to 4 October to identify priorities for the implementation of the Bank's new strategy for State-building and peace consolidation. Priorities within this framework include support for land management, civil registration and reintegration of former combatants and youth. On 25 October, the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso,

visited Abidjan to sign an agreement of budgetary support with the Government amounting to €115 million.

52. On 30 November, the International Monetary Fund completed its second review of Côte d'Ivoire's economic performance under the programme supported by the Extended Credit Facility, enabling the immediate disbursement of an amount equivalent to $100 million. This will bring total disbursements under the arrangement to $324 million to date.

53. During a meeting of the Consultative Group in Paris on 4 and 5 December, in which my Special Representative participated, donors pledged over $8 billion to fill the funding gap of Côte d'Ivoire's National Development Plan for the period of 2013-2015, exceeding the Government's expectations.

IX. Safety and security of United Nations personnel

54. The fragile security situation, coupled with the high incidence of violent crime, posed security threats to United Nations personnel and installations. During the period under review, one assault, four incidents of house break-ins as well as seven incidents of robbery and carjacking targeting United Nations personnel were reported in Abidjan. The United Nations has taken measures to lower the risks associated with these threats, including through its security intervention team, which also comprises members of the national law enforcement agencies.

X. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Military component

55. The strength of the military component of UNOCI as of 18 December was 9,550 military personnel, including 9,275 troops, 178 military observers and 97 staff officers, against an authorized ceiling of 8,837 personnel. In the light of the deterioration of the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire as well as the evolving threats, I had recommended in my letter to the President of the Security Council dated 16 October (S/2012/772) to defer the reduction of the military strength of UNOCI by 955 personnel as reflected in the authorized strength in Security Council resolution 2062 (2012) until after the assessment to be conducted in early 2013. This assessment would, inter alia, develop recommendations on possible adjustments in the structure and strength of UNOCI based on the security situation and prevailing threats as well as benchmarks to measure and track progress towards the achievement of long-term stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

56. UNOCI reinforced its troop presence in western Côte d'Ivoire, including in Divo, Gagnoa and Tabou, in order to enhance the protection of civilians in areas of concern. Further camps are under construction in Grabo and Para at the border with Liberia as well as in Abengourou near the border with Ghana.

57. As part of inter-mission cooperation, fortnightly operations are being conducted by UNOCI and UNMIL. These entail coordinated patrols on both sides of the Ivorian-Liberian border followed by meetings at border posts, bringing together Ivorian and Liberian authorities as well as UNOCI and UNMIL personnel, to discuss the outcome of the patrols and exchange information. Pending the approval

of the troop-contributing country for the transfer of the three armed helicopters from UNMIL to UNOCI, they continued to operate from Liberia conducting aerial patrols and reconnaissance missions along and across the border in western Côte d'Ivoire, providing a deterrent effect against the cross-border movements of suspected armed elements.

58. UNOCI is also assisting the Government in providing static security at key installations in Abidjan and elsewhere in the country, and is conducting coordinated patrols with FRCI, the national police and the gendarmerie.

Police component

59. As at 18 December, the strength of the police component of UNOCI stood at 1,490 personnel, including six formed police units with 996 personnel and 494 individual police officers, against an authorized ceiling of 1,555 personnel. Formed police units are deployed in Abidjan, Bouaké, Daloa, Guiglo, Tai and Yamoussoukro. Out of the 205 specialized police advisers authorized by the Security Council in resolution 2000 (2011), 184 have been deployed to UNOCI, while 21 are under recruitment.

60. UNOCI continued to contribute to strengthening the capacity of the national police and gendarmerie through co-location, mentoring activities, and the provision of advice in conducting investigations. Specialized training was provided on forensics, close protection, human rights, ethics, antiracketeering, gender-based violence and maintenance of public order. Through funding from the Peacebuilding Fund, UNOCI also provided training to 400 national police and gendarmerie personnel on community policing. With financial assistance from the European Union, UNOCI is implementing a pilot project aimed at enhancing the confidence of the population in the police as well as improving police ethics and professionalism.

61. In support of efforts to address subregional threats, UNOCI, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office for West Africa developed an action plan for the establishment of a transnational crime unit in Côte d'Ivoire. UNOCI also continued to support the Government in the implementation of the West Africa Coast Initiative, organizing three orientation sessions for national gendarmerie anti-drugs and detective officers as well as the national anti-racketeering unit.

Civilian component

62. In close collaboration with the United Nations country team, and within existing resources and capacity, UNOCI strengthened its presence of civilian personnel in some field offices with a view to enhancing the Mission's mandate implementation at the local level, in particular with regard to the protection of civilians. Field offices co-locating UNOCI and the United Nations country team were established in Guiglo and Toulepleu in western Côte d'Ivoire. UNOCI and the United Nations country team also implemented a joint 90-day action plan, in close coordination with national partners, aimed at increasing mandate implementation in areas of concern.

XI. Observations

63. Eighteen months after the violent post-elections crisis, I am encouraged by the relative progress that Côte d'Ivoire has made on a number of fronts. The country finds itself at a challenging, yet promising, juncture. In order for progress to be sustainable, crucial decisions will have to be made and implemented in the areas of security, reconciliation and political dialogue. The root causes of the recurrent violent crises in Côte d Ivoire will also have to be addressed, most importantly land issues.

64. President Ouattara has displayed leadership in addressing security challenges and initiating key reforms. I particularly welcome the establishment of the National Security Council, which facilitated the adoption of relevant strategies on security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, while a pilot project to demobilize, disarm and reintegrate former combatants has been launched. Moreover, State authority throughout the country is gradually being restored and the National Assembly is working.

65. The economy is on a fast track to recovery, and efforts have intensified to move the country towards economic growth and development. Growth rates are impressive, stemming from an ambitious national development plan coupled with public and private investment, debt relief and international assistance. The strong donor response during the Consultative Group meeting in Paris reflects the steadfast support of the international community to Côte d'Ivoire, its people and their leadership.

66. All of these remarkable achievements reflect the genuine commitment and willingness among many of Côte d'Ivoire's leaders and its people to turn the page and work together towards a more secure, stable and prosperous future. However, continued violence also serves as a reminder that while the country presses forward with key structural reforms, including those needed to address the security situation, the Government will need to deliver on its promises with regard to reconciliation. It will also need to demonstrate tangible improvements in people's living conditions by reducing poverty, creating employment, particularly for youth, including former combatants, and increasing its investments in social services, notably health and education in vulnerable areas.

67. At the same time, there are major challenges that still need to be addressed. Positive developments were tempered by a spate of attacks between August and October, as well as cross-border incidents along the borders with Ghana and Liberia, leading to the death, injury and displacement of people as well as the destruction of property. I condemn all violent attacks, whether they target civilians, such as the attack on an internally displaced persons camp in western Côte d'Ivoire, installations of the former ruling party, the national security forces or critical infrastructure. Such acts of violence, which are designed to cause fear and destabilize the country, must stop. I call on the Government to ensure that the perpetrators are identified and held accountable. I also urge all political actors and the media to refrain from using any inflammatory language that raises tensions or incites violence.

68. In addition to highlighting a higher degree of paramilitary organization within elements of the opposition, the attacks exposed the vulnerability and shortcomings of the national security and law enforcement institutions. Effective security sector

reform is essential to achieve lasting peace and security. I urge the Government and relevant stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of major security sector reforms aimed at establishing disciplined, professional and republican armed forces, with a clear chain of command, and a more effective police and gendarmerie, capable of protecting civilians across the country. While the establishment of the National Security Council and the development of a security sector reform strategy are positive steps, I encourage the Government to consider the development of a transparent and sustainable vetting and recruitment mechanism for all personnel that will be absorbed into or appointed to the security sector institutions. There is also a need to prioritize initiatives to strengthen confidence within and among the police, gendarmerie and armed forces. Efforts to sensitize the population about security sector reform must also be accelerated. I call upon international partners to continue their support for these critical processes.

69. I welcome the progress on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, in particular the establishment of a single Authority for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the adoption of a national policy. The Government must now quickly move from conceptualization to actual implementation on the ground and at a scale commensurate with the number of forces to be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated. I urge the Government to provide UNOCI full access to the new database of former combatants to help ensure its credibility, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 2062 (2012), and ensure a politically balanced demobilization process. I also encourage the Government to move towards developing a comprehensive and inclusive programme providing reinsertion and reintegration opportunities for all former combatants, including foreign combatants in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and those that fought on the side of former President Gbagbo. I urge the Government to find effective solutions so that dozos revert to playing their traditional hunter role in Ivorian society and strictly abide by human rights standards.

70. Strengthening justice institutions remains another crucial task for combating impunity and ensuring stability, security, respect for human rights and compliance with the rule of law. I commend the Government's commitment to strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and prison services.

71. However, I remain concerned about continuing human rights violations, including the incidence of sexual violence and rape, from which, notably, women and children continue to suffer. I urge the Government to end impunity by ensuring, as a matter of urgency, that those responsible for serious abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law are brought to justice irrespective of their political affiliation in accordance with its international obligations. I also call upon the Government to ensure that detainees can be visited and that they receive clarity about their status in a transparent manner, or else are released. I wish to reiterate my calls for accountability and for the prosecution of those responsible for crimes committed against civilians, notably in Bonon and the Nahibly camp for internally displaced persons, as well as in Para, where seven peacekeepers were killed in June.

72. The spate of violent incidents also highlights the prevalence of political fractures and tensions. Overcoming those divisions will require genuine political will and efforts from everyone. I welcome the efforts made by President Ouattara to promote reconciliation, including through his visits, and those by members of his

Government, to different parts of the country. I also welcome the initiatives launched by the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission to seek broad-based consensus on issues of national concern, including with many youth groups. Those efforts need to be urgently stepped up and followed by gestures and concrete measures to promote reconciliation at all levels and on all sides. I urge the Government to enhance its efforts to engage in meaningful dialogue with the political opposition, including the former ruling and other political parties, and to ensure political space and security for all, which is essential for the stabilization of the country. I also call on the representatives of the former ruling party and the opposition parties to play a more constructive role in promoting dialogue and reconciliation.

73. The forthcoming local elections should provide an opportunity to strengthen the democratic process in Côte d'Ivoire and contribute towards national reconciliation. I urge the Government and all political stakeholders to ensure that the preparations for the upcoming elections, including the timing, relevant electoral reforms and security measures, foster the free, fair and peaceful vote called for by the Security Council and contribute to inclusiveness and reconciliation.

74. I commend the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia for increasing their cooperation, including at the highest level. I am also encouraged by the enhanced contacts between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. Such cooperation is essential to effectively address cross-border movements of armed elements and weapons as well as illicit trafficking and to ensure that those behind these destabilizing and criminal activities are held accountable. I am disturbed by reports of individuals and networks affiliated with members of the former Government of President Gbagbo inside and outside Côte d'Ivoire involved in financing and carrying out destabilizing activities involving the recruitment and rearming of former combatants.

75. These threats remain a concern for Côte d'Ivoire and the wider subregion. The active engagement of the African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union remain important, including in the context of a subregional strategy. I welcome President Ouattara's efforts, in his capacity as Chair of ECOWAS, to address crisis situations in the subregion. While there have been fewer attacks recently, the border areas remain volatile. Additional attention from the Governments concerned, with the support of the United Nations, is needed to improve the conditions of those living in the border areas.

76. As I have stressed in my previous reports, security measures alone will not address the situation on the border with Liberia. I would urge both the Governments to take concrete and coordinated measures to enhance the protection of civilians, promote reconciliation and ensure the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. UNOCI and UNMIL will continue to support the efforts of the national authorities and regional organizations to this end, while further strengthening inter-mission cooperation arrangements.

77. I would like to thank my Special Representative, Bert Koenders, all UNOCI military, police and civilian personnel and the United Nations country team for their continued commitment and dedication in support of the establishment of lasting peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. My appreciation also goes to the troop- and police-contributing countries and to donor countries, and to the regional and multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations that have continued to provide invaluable support to the country.

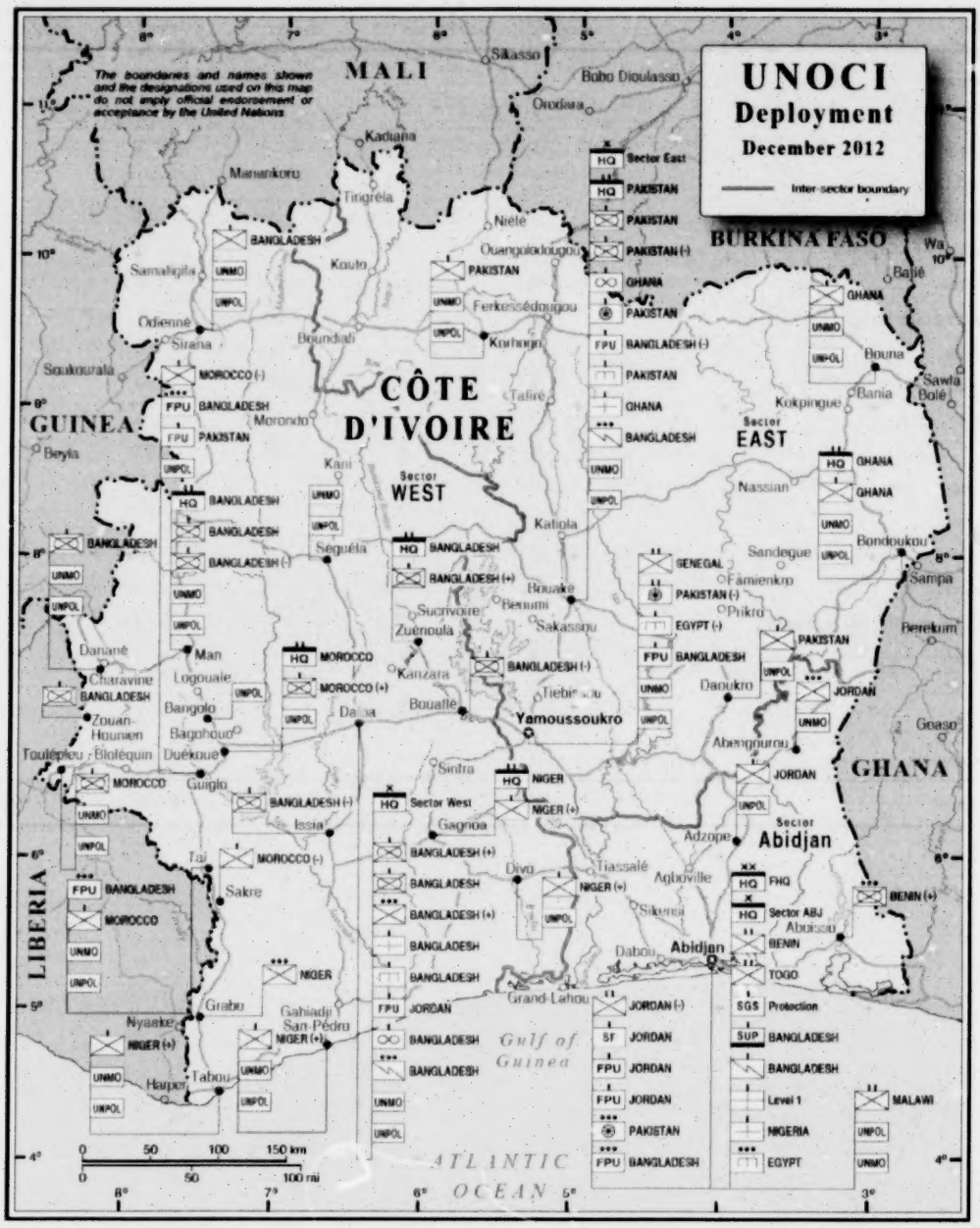
Annex

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: military and police strength as at 18 December 2012

	Military component				*Police component*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Police*
Argentina	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bangladesh	13	9	2 161	2 183	357	1
Benin	6	8	420	434	–	57
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3	–	–	3	–	–
Brazil	1	3	–	4	–	–
Burkina Faso	–	–	–	–	–	23
Burundi	–	–	–	–	–	38
Cameroon	–	–	–	–	–	19
Canada	–	–	–	–	–	9
Central African Republic	–	–	–	–	–	9
Chad	4	1	–	5	–	23
China	6	–	–	6	–	–
Djibouti	–	–	–	–	–	28
Democratic Republic of the Congo	–	–	–	–	–	17
Ecuador	2	–	–	2	–	–
Egypt	–	1	175	176	–	15
El Salvador	3	–	–	3	–	–
Ethiopia	1	–	–	1	–	–
France	–	6	–	6	–	14
Gambia	3	–	–	3	–	–
Ghana	6	7	500	513	–	5
Guatemala	5	–	–	5	–	–
Guinea	3	–	–	3	–	10
India	7	–	–	7	–	–
Ireland	2	–	–	2	–	–
Jordan	7	12	1 060	1 079	490	26
Madagascar	–	–	–	–	–	40
Malawi	3	3	858	864	–	–
Morocco	–	3	723	726	–	–
Namibia	2	–	–	2	–	–
Nepal	3	1	–	4	–	–
Niger	5	4	932	941	–	58
Nigeria	5	1	63	69	–	–
Pakistan	11	11	1 378	1 400	149	–

Country	Military component				Police component	
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Police
Paraguay	7	2	–	9	–	–
Peru	3	–	–	3	–	–
Philippines	2	3	–	5	–	–
Poland	2	–	–	2	–	–
Republic of Korea	2	–	–	2	–	–
Republic of Moldova	4	–	–	4	–	–
Romania	6	–	–	6	–	–
Russian Federation	11	–	–	11	–	–
Rwanda	–	–	–	–	–	16
Senegal	9	7	488	504	–	13
Serbia	3	–	–	3	–	–
Togo	7	8	517	532	–	21
Tunisia	4	3	–	7	–	11
Turkey	–	–	–	–	–	16
Uganda	5	2	–	7	–	–
Ukraine	–	–	–	–	–	8
United Republic of Tanzania	2	2	–	4	–	–
Uruguay	1	–	–	1	–	4
Yemen	7	–	–	7	–	13
Zambia	1	–	–	1	–	–
Zimbabwe	1	–	–	1	–	–
Total	**178**	**97**	**9 275**	**9 550**	**996**	**494**

Map


UNOCI
Deployment
December 2012
Inter-sector boundary
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
MALI
BURKINA FASO
GUINEA
CÔTE D'IVOIRE
LIBERIA
GHANA
Gulf of Guinea
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Sector WEST
Sector EAST
Sector Abidjan
Yamoussoukro
Abidjan
Bouaké
Man
Daloa
Korhogo
Odienné
Séguéla
Katiola
Sakassou
Divo
Gagnoa
Soubré
Sassandra
Grand-Lahou
Agboville
Adzopé
Abengourou
Aboisso
Bondoukou
Bouna
Bondoukou
Sampa
Berekum
Goaso
Nassian
Danané
Toulepleu
Guiglo
Duékoué
Bangolo
Logouale
Zouan-Hounien
Bloléquin
Taï
Sakré
Tabou
Grabo
Gabiadji
San-Pédro
Nyaake
Harper
Issia
Sinfra
Kani
Boundiali
Ferkessédougou
Niellé
Tingréla
Kadiana
Sikasso
Bobo Dioulasso
Orodara
Ouangolodougou
Kouto
Samatiguila
Mankono
Seguela
Zuenoula
Sucrivoire
Tiebissou
Kanzara
Bouaflé
Dabou
Jacqueville
Sikensi
Tiassalé
Kokpingue
Bania
Bouna
Bondoukou
Sandegue
Famienkro
Prikro
Daoukro
Abengourou
Abouisso
Aboisso
Bonoua
Grand-Bassam
Assinie
Tanda
Dimbokro
Bocanda
Kouassi-Kouassikro
Toumodi
Yamoussoukro
Bongouanou
Arrah
Agnibilekrou
Abengourou
Bondoukou
Bouna
Tehini
Doropo
Nassian
Bangolo
Toulepleu
Zouan-Hounien
Bloléquin
Danané
Man
Logouale
Bangolo
Duékoué
Guiglo
Taï
Sakré
Tabou
Grabo
Gabiadji
San-Pédro
Nyaake
Harper
Issia
Sinfra
Kani
Boundiali
Ferkessédougou
Niellé
Tingréla
Kadiana
Sikasso
Bobo Dioulasso
Orodara
Ouangolodougou
Kouto
Samatiguila
Mankono
Seguela
Zuenoula
Sucrivoire
Tiebissou
Kanzara
Bouaflé
Dabou
Jacqueville
Sikensi
Tiassalé
Kokpingue
Bania
Bouna
Bondoukou
Sandegue
Famienkro
Prikro
Daoukro
Abengourou